

From: Pete Thompson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 3:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a Canadian, I'm not sure if my input counts. However, I want to stress the importance of this settlement as it has global economic implications. Microsoft has a global monopoly on the desktop operating system market, so whatever decisions they make, it affects me as well.

Netscape was my primary browser until Internet Explorer became so widespread that it became impossible to ignore. Then of course, when I bought Windows 98 (Second Edition), it came with Internet Explorer. I didn't have a choice to buy it without Internet Explorer. So now I was faced with this decision: download and install Netscape and have two browsers on my system, with one just taking up unnecessary space, or just forget about Netscape and use IE instead.

In my case, Netscape never stood a chance. I simply couldn't be bothered to install extra software for no real gain other than to simply say, "Ha ha! I'm using Netscape even if it means taking up extra space!" Microsoft basically made my decision for me. I believe this is true for millions of other users. Yes, I do have the option of downloading and installing Netscape, but since you can't uninstall Internet Explorer, that choice is only an illusion.

I believe that Netscape was significantly harmed, and lost so much money that they had no choice but to allow themselves to be bought out by America Online.

Reviewing the settlement proposal, I consider it to be nothing more than a slap on the wrist for Microsoft. What exactly is Microsoft supposed to learn from this settlement? Just throw money around until they get a settlement that they like? What lessons are they supposed to learn?

Now with the release of Windows XP, I'm seeing more and more integration happening. MSN is now a part of the operating system (putting ICQ, AIM, and Yahoo! Chat at a disadvantage). Windows Media Player can play MP3 songs (putting Nullsoft's WinAMP at a disadvantage). Windows XP has many "reminders" that you should sign up for the Passport service.

Then, of course, there's Licensing 6.0 - buy the Enterprise edition, and you get the cheapest subscription fees - provided you use ONLY Microsoft products and nothing else. Don't buy it, and you're threatened with the fact that you'll end up paying millions of extra dollars down the road (if you're a business).

All this is happening right now. Microsoft has not learned anything from the trials. Microsoft has consistently shown nothing but contempt for the

trial process.

So, for the sake of the global economy, I urge that you reconsider this settlement and come up with a harsher one.

Regards,
Peter L. Thompson
215-1323 W. 71st Ave
Vancouver, BC
Canada